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WARTIME WORK OF STATE EXTENSION SERVICES

(Digested from Reports of State Extension Directors)

SUMMARY No. 35

NOVEMBER 7, 1942

ARKANSAS (October 1).--Results of wartime production program beginning to be apparent with harvesting of one of greatest crops in Arkansas history. All goals for production appear to have been met or exceeded. Also, quality improvement has been noticeable throughout production program.

Extension activities in September continued straight ahead in all-out production effort with emphasis focused largely on marketing, storage, and utilization of all crops. Use of local leaders continued; 345 local leader training meetings held with attendance of 3,124. Additional 4,379 enrolled by neighborhood leaders in Food for Victory.

County agents attended 86 civilian defense council meetings during month to discuss coordination of war efforts such as fire prevention, price control, nutrition consumer education, scrap metal collection. Attended 132 county war board meetings for consideration of rationing farm machinery, farm-to-market transportation, lumber shortages, soybean purchasing and marketing, peanut marketing.

Attention given to war production goals. Agents held 593 meetings with 12,141 in attendance and gave individual assistance to 12,662 families with fall Victory Gardens. Marketing method demonstrations given at 219 meetings with 2,756 persons attending; 120 other marketing meetings held with 2,734 attending; 1,001 organized groups assisted with marketing problems.

Home demonstration agents attended 68 nutrition committee meetings where they discussed and analyzed price regulations, meat substitutes, nutrition problems in defense areas, school lunches, Red Cross nutrition classes, and home nursing. During month, 25 cooking schools under way and 17 new classes being established; 13 nutrition centers set up with 1,730 people calling for information; 6 Red Cross nutrition courses taught with enrollment of 108; 130 schools participated in hot-lunch program, serving 12,657 children.

Meetings held by agents on farm machinery care and repair totaled 59 attended by 1,038. Subject handled largely through method demonstrations on operating and repairing combines and threshers. Held 520 meetings to discuss collection of critical material, resulting in collection and sale of 15,880 tons.

4-H Clubs have continued their emphasis on collection of scrap metal, organization of fire crews, sale of war stamps and bonds, fat salvage, and Victory Garden projects giving special attention to proper utilization and marketing.

Educational material presented in 183 field stories prepared by county agents, 17 stories by State workers, and 134 stories prepared for radio programs. Clippings from 104 newspapers of State showed 2,618 column inches devoted to use of material prepared by Extension. Two leaflets, Stop Forest Fires in Arkansas, and Keep Out of the Red - Prevent Farm Fire Losses, prepared for distribution.

MONTANA (November 1).--Agents have gathered additional information on production as preliminary to 1943 production goals. Help in selection of breeding hogs, information on wheat as feed, and pointers on orderly marketing, are among activities in food production. In Custer and Powder River Counties publicity campaign conducted for increasing cattle marketings, through circular letter to all cattlemen, 2 news stories, 3 radio releases, and personal contacts by extension agent. Results are that cattle marketings from this area have been conducted in orderly fashion.

Members of State staff made contact with USDA war boards, agricultural planning committees, and others in preliminary work on production estimates as background information for 1943 production goals. Representatives report a cooperative attitude and earnest desire on part of farm people to assemble necessary material and do everything possible in anticipation of goals.

With high school and in some instances junior high school students working shoulder to shoulder with some 740 Montana State College men, sugar beet harvesting is progressing rapidly in all areas of State. Organization of many volunteer crews has been handled largely by extension workers cooperating with school authorities, employment service officials, and civic representatives.

While not officially delegated, county agents generally have volunteered in truck registration work in an effort to assure adequate transportation to operators, and to assist local transportation committees in the organizational work needed to get cards completed.

Contribution of home demonstration agents indicated by their work in Richland County. Series of two clothing renovation lessons presented to 300 homemakers, with emphasis on making use of every available garment. A 15-minute radio talk given each week emphasizing proper food preservation and storage methods, Victory Food Specials, salvage, planning balanced meals, fireproofing fabrics for fire prevention, etc. Through neighborhood leaders and home demonstration clubs, food supply report has been made for county. Agent has supervised hot-lunch canning projects at various schools.

4-H Victory program shows - 5,325 4-H members helped relieve farm or home labor shortage in production of needed food supplies by performing extra amount of labor on the farm. 1,399,940 pounds scrap metal collected, 111,130 pounds paper, 228,897 pounds rubber. \$47,452.50 worth of war bonds and stamps purchased, and \$682.50 worth sold. 708 members participated in 4-H fire-prevention activities, 286 members increased farm fuel supplies, 1,175 members cared for or repaired farm machinery, 425 members took first aid or home nursing, 26 members acted as air raid wardens, 1,591 members cooperated with local defense agencies in defense activities, 31 members served as neighborhood leaders, 5,344 members participated in activities improving health.

TEXAS (November 1).--Cottonseed Improvement program, announced by Secretary on September 18, implemented in joint conference at Texas A. & M. College of leading cotton growers, specialist in cotton production, and representatives of agencies working with agriculture. Committee of 7 cotton farmers, representing all sections of State, with cooperation of technical committee of 4 members, zoned State into 7 areas and designated a seed variety for each. To bring to attention of all agency groups concerned some new and vital information on cotton varieties and staple length, together with seasonal conditions relating to soil-building practices, series of 29 one-day meetings held throughout State. Specialists in cotton work and cotton ginning shared responsibility for leadership of discussions.

Many farmers growing peanuts this year for first time lack equipment and experience for harvesting and threshing crop. To assist in smoothing out some rough spots, representatives of Southwestern Peanut Growers' Association and AMA, with Extension specialists, met with some 200 county agents in September. Details of peanut-oil program explained, and agents now in position to explain to growers the limitations of program and services which may be expected from Peanut Growers' Association. Some problems will be worked out by farmers in local groups.

Extension animal husbandmen conducted 25 one-day short courses in which county agents were given instructions and demonstrations in control of external and internal parasites of cattle. Assistance given to 20 county agents and 4-H Club leaders by extension game-management specialist in planning 1943 programs on upland game birds and animals.

Home demonstration clubs find their meetings so helpful they are making effort to maintain regular schedules in spite of gasoline rationing. In some counties club women meet at centrally located place within walking distance for majority of members, in others, members are picked up in automobiles or trucks. In some west Texas counties women are discussing riding horseback to club meetings. Increasing number of working bees where club members help hostess with work too big for her to handle alone, such as special canning or sewing.

Sixty Negro county agents and farmers from northern district attended tool sharpening, butchering, and meat-cutting demonstration conducted by animal industry specialist; 50 Negro boys received 4,250 chicks of approved laying varieties from foundation sponsored by national commercial concern; Negro county agricultural Victory councils in 51 counties served by 82 Negro extension workers are making use of community and neighborhood leaders to carry out Extension wartime program with rural families. Four meetings for small groups of Negro county agents held in southern district, and 2-day training meeting attended by 40 Negro county workers in northern district. Instruction given by extension specialists in poultry and poultry diseases, home gardening and orchards, insect control, winter cover crops, plans of work, wartime policies, and 4-H Club work. Discussions sought to determine what Negro extension workers can do in 1943 to assist Negro farmers to carry out their wartime responsibilities. Through Negro community and neighborhood leaders, total of 223,595 pounds of scrap metal, 19,613 pounds scrap rubber, 747 pounds rags, and 2,000 pounds tin cans was collected during salvage program. Bond and stamp rallies held in 23 counties.

